(b) whether tenders have been invited for the construction work; and

(c) if so, by when the shopping centre is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tenders are yet to be invited.

(c) The construction of local shopping centre at Mayur Vihar Phase-I Extension, (Noida Road), Delhi is likely to be completed by March 1993 subject to availability of necessary sanctions.

Allotment letters to allottees in Rohini by D.D.A.

114. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during March 1991, some Janata|LIG|MIG plots were allotted to residents of Rohini Residential Scheme for which a list of successful applicants was displayed by Delhi Development Authority;

(b) whether it is also a fact that demand/allotment letters have not so far been issued to them;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the demand| allotment letters are likely to be issued; and

(d) what is the rate of land likely to be charged for these plots, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of 5,740 plots allotted demands|allotment letters have been issued to 3,652 successful applicants. In respect of the remaining 2088 applicants demand/allotment ters will be issued after the stay granted by the High Court in the matter is vacated.

(d) The rates charged as under:

Type of plots	Rate p r sq. m.
EWS/Janata . . .	Rs. 498
LIG	Rs. 661
MIG	Rs. 996

Postal Services in Himachal Pradesh

115. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some officers of the Postal Service in the Himachal Circle had been suspended recently after alleged embezzlement of about Rs. 25 lakhs;

(b) whether an inquiry was ordered into the same if so, what are the details of the report, if any, received;

(c) whether any further action is being taken in the matter; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such embezzlements?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. It would not be possible at this stage to give the details as action against many is to be initiated and the case against the main culprit is under investigation by the C. B. I.

(b) Yes Sir.

(d) The issue of handling of cash in smaller post offices due to the sale of Government Savings instruments is

under examination. In addition, tightening of the control of the supervisory staff at higher levels in the running of these offices is also emphasized.

Steps to Fight Drought

116. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of financial assistance asked for by different State Governments to fight drought situation in their States;

(b) what is the amount sanctioned by the Central Government in each case so far; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to fight drought in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The State Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh sought following financial assistance for meeting the drought situation.

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	States	Assistance sought
1	Maharashtra	14·91
2	Karnataka	10·00
3	Himachal Pradesh	20·00

Under the existing scheme for financing the relief expenditure, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State with an allocated amount, of which 75 per cent is contributed by the Central Government in four quarterly instalments and 25 per cent is contributed by the State Governments from their own resources. With the creation of the Calamity Relief Fund it is now for the State Governments to meet the entire expenditure on management of natural calamities. Additional Central assistance can be extended only in the case of a situation of rare severity which requires handling at national level. The situation in these States was not of rare severity.

(c) Execution of relief operation in the wake of natural calamities is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. These State Governments are taking necessary steps to provide necessary relief to the affected people.

Education as a Fundamental Right

117. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make education a fundamental right with a view to make free and compulsory education available upto the age of 15;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is already an accepted policy of the Government, in accordance with Article 45 of the Constitution, that all children should get free and compulsory education till they complete 14 years of age. Government is making requisite endeavour to provide